

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 9-19 and 21 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 20, and 22-36 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 20, and 22-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klug (U.S. Patent No. 6,823,327) in view of Bezos (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,141). Applicant submits that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied-on references.

Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to more clearly show the differences between the claimed features and the relied on art. No new matter has been added by these changes. Support for these changes is found at, e.g., Figs. 1 and 9 and pages 9-10 and 21 of the specification.

As amended herein, claim 1 recites:

a link from said first information processing apparatus directly to said second information processing apparatus, said second information processing apparatus being accessible by said first information processing apparatus through said link.

(Emphasis added.) Neither the relied on sections of Klug nor the relied on sections of Bezos disclose or suggest a link from a first information processing apparatus directly to a second information processing apparatus. Moreover, neither the relied on sections of Klug nor the relied on sections of Bezos disclose or suggest a second information processing apparatus being accessible by a first information processing apparatus through a link (from the first information processing apparatus directly to the second information processing apparatus).

Rather, such sections of Bezos teach an associate web site 100 and a merchant web site 106 that communicate with each other through the Internet 104 and a customer computer 108.

(See Fig.1.) The relied on sections of Bezos are not at all concerned with a link from an associate web site directly to a merchant web site, and these sections are not at all concerned with a merchant web site being accessible by an associate web site through a link (from the associate web site directly to the merchant web site). Hence, the relied on sections of Bezos do not disclose or suggest a link as defined in the above excerpt of claim 1.

The relied-on sections of Klug do not overcome the deficiencies of the relied-on sections of Bezos. Rather, such sections of Klug disclose a third party web site 116 and a registrar web site 100 that communicate with each other through World Wide Web 104. (See Fig.1.)

It follows that, for at least these reasons, neither the relied-on sections of Klug nor the relied-on sections of Bezos, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the system defined in claim 1, and claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Independent claim 20 calls for features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 1. Claim 20 therefore patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied on sections of Klug and Bezos for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-8 and 29-32 depend from claim 1, and claims 22-28 and 33-36 depend from claim 20. Therefore, each of these claims is distinguishable over the relied-on references at least for the same reasons as its parent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested

that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Electronic Signature: /Lawrence  
E. Russ/  
Lawrence E. Russ  
Registration No.: 35,342  
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 South Avenue West  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 654-5000  
Attorney for Applicant

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